

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the non-final Official Action dated July 28, 2004. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Priority Acknowledgement

It is noted with appreciation that the certified copy in support of the priority claim have been received.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Action as received mentioned an attachment that appears to be an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 that accompanied the application as filed. However, that document does not seem to have been included with the papers as they reached our file. It is respectfully requested that another copy of the initialed PTO-1449 Form accompany the next PTO communication. Any inconvenience is regretted.

Specification

The specification for this lengthy application has been reviewed and minor changes made at pages 24 and 36 to prepare this application for final printing in view of the indication of allowable subject matter. Entry of these changes is respectfully requested.

Claims

Claims 1 to 30 were pending in this application as filed. Claims 3 to 14, and 18 to 29 were merely objected to, but indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 15 to 17, and 30 were initially rejected as anticipated by the patent to Panuscopone, No. 6,647,061. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Without acquiescence in or agreement with the findings of the rejection, claims 1, 16 and 18 are amended to include subject matter of allowable claim 3, rewritten to state features contained in allowable claim 3, but less than all of the subject matter of allowable claim 3, thus clarifying the meanings of both the first image compression information and the second images compressing information from which the initial values recited in the paragraph defining "quantization scale determination means" as suggested by the reasons for allowance.

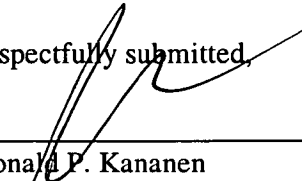
Specifically, the features migrated from allowable claim 3 include a recitation that the first image compression information is an average quantization scale of the first intra image coded picture of the first image compression information, as recited in the terminal limitation of allowable claim 3, and a ratio of a code amount of the first image compression information to a

code amount of the second image compression information, as recited in lines 4 and 5 of allowable claim 3. Thus, amended claims 1, 16 and 18 are submitted to be allowable for the reasons that prompted the original indication of allowable subject matter in claim 3 and as well-stated in the reasons for allowance in section 7 on pages 5 and 6 of the Action.

Claims 2 and 17 are canceled, thus mooted the stated rejections of claims 2 and 17 without need for further discussion.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Ronald P. Kananen
Registration No.: 24,104
Rader, Fishman & Grauer PLLC
1233 20th Street, NW
Suite 501
Washington, DC 20036
Phone (202) 955-3750
Fax (202) 955-3751
Attorneys for Applicant

Attachments

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